

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
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SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
ALL EC CAPITALS

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USEEC

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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, AS
SUBJECT: EC-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

REFS: (A) CANBERRA 2861, (B) BRUSSELS 7216

1. EC COMMISSION ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE ON
APRIL 14 EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT STATEMENT OF
AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER AND EXPLAINING POSTPONEMENT OF
EC-AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS:

BEGIN TEXT

SIR ROY DENMAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
SUMMONED THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON TO
EXPRESS SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THE TERMS OF THE
REFERENCE MADE BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE
COMMUNITY IN A SPEECH IN SYDNEY ON APRIL 14 ("A NARROW
SELF-INTERESTED TRADE GROUP TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD
DANCE TO ITS TUNE"), AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO
MAKE BILATERAL TALKS PLANNED WITH AUSTRALIA AS CON-
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STRUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE. THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE
CANCELLATION OF THESE TALKS. IN DISCUSSION BETWEEN
VICE-PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP AND MR. GARLAND IN GENEVA ON
APRIL 9 AND 10 IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT TALKS AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITH THE COMMISSION, ENVISAGED
INITIALLY FOR THE SECOND HALF OF MAY, WOULD BE BETTER

POSTPONED UNTIL THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE IN ORDER TO
ALLOW FULL CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMUNITY, IN THE
LIGHT OF VISITS TO COMMUNITY CAPITALS THIS MONTH AND
IN MAY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR SPECIAL TRADE
REPRESENTATIVES, OF AN AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE PRESENTED
ON APRIL 6 WHICH THREATENED DISCRIMINATORY RETALIATORY
ACTION IF SOLUTIONS WERE NOT FOUND BILATERALLY.
THE COMMISSION HAS AGREED TO TALKS ON THE BASIS,
ESPECIALLY RECOGNIZED BY PRIME MINISTER FRASER LAST
JUNE, THAT "MANY PROBLEMS COULD ULTIMATELY ONLY BE
RESOLVED IN THE MULTIATERAL FORA" AND THAT THERE WERE
LIMITS WITHIN WHICH POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE TRADE
FIELD COULD BE ACHIEVED BILATERALLY AND NEITHER
WISHED TO GIVE RISE TO UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS".
IT IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
TO ADOPT A PURELY BILATERAL APPROACH TO MANY OF THE
ISSUES RAISED ON THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE. END TEXT
HINTON

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